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From: **Kimberly Harlan** <[kim@modernshamankitchen.com](mailto:kim@modernshamankitchen.com)>  
Date: Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 3:59 PM  
Subject: We SUPPORT a Permanent Greenleaf Promenade  
To: Whittier Uptown Association <[cynthia@whittieruptown.org](mailto:cynthia@whittieruptown.org)>  
Cc: the forty <[the6740@gmail.com](mailto:the6740@gmail.com)>

Dear Whittier City Council,

This is a note of overwhelming support and excitement for a plan to create a permanent Promenade on Greenleaf Avenue.

We are both residents of Uptown Whittier as well as the owners of two well-established restaurants on Greenleaf. We live here, do business here, and spend our money here in Uptown.

Once again, we want to thank you for allowing Uptown Whittier businesses to move into the streets for outdoor dining and shopping. It literally saved our businesses and allowed us not only to financially survive the COVID pandemic but also grow our business a bit in this unprecedented time.

We literally spend almost every day of our lives on Greenleaf Avenue, watching and experiencing everything going on. Immediately, the Promenade completely transformed the Uptown Whittier business area into a safer place for the community to get out of their homes to have a nice lunch or dinner and shop. We started to see things every day that we never saw before the Promenade existed - families with kids on bikes, couples of all ages on date night, people walking their dogs and pushing strollers. Greenleaf began to feel like a wonderful family-friendly place. We need to keep building on that.

Some businesses on Greenleaf have closed, storefronts are empty with no sign of being reopened. Why? We need help here to get through this.

Most businesses on Greenleaf are still struggling to survive due to the recent massive upsurge in Covid. But people haven't stopped eating or shopping of course. Amazon and tech companies like DoorDash and Uber are making millions off of our businesses, and if we don't receive some help, Greenleaf Avenue with its charm and sense of community will continue to erode and die off.

We, and literally all our customers, say **Keep the Promenade**. It is a special place. The Christmas Parade in December showed that doing business outdoors can easily mesh with special community events. We were open for the parade and it was a tremendously successful day for business. Opening the street for parades or emergency vehicles is a solid plan.

Further, we never hear any complaints about a lack of parking. The two structures on Bright and Comstock are never beyond capacity. And Thank You by the way for lengthening the hours at the Bright St. structure; it really helps us and our employees.

We look forward to seeing what comes next as the Greenleaf Promenade Plan develops – however, we also have numerous, vital questions as to how that process will unfold, and how it will affect our ability to do continue to operate our businesses as a new Promenade plan is implemented and the street is converted. We hope to receive clarity on many, many important concerns soon. If there will be any closures due to construction or loss of access to the watermain, we need to be provided that info immediately and understand how that we will be supported by the City.

We invite you to our restaurants anytime. It would be nice to show you the triumphs and challenges through the eyes of business owners living the Uptown life every day.

Sincerely,

Michael Kachoeff – owner of **The 6740** / 6740 Greenleaf Avenue

Kimberly Harlan – owner of **Modern Shaman** / 6744 Greenleaf Avenue

## MODERN SHAMAN

Bringing creative, sustainable, delicious plant-based comfort food to Uptown Whittier

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